

These facts demonstrate that Medicaid is a significant health safety net program for women. The proposed Republican budget cuts billions from Medicaid. I urge my colleagues to reject the Medicaid budget cuts and to provide full funding for women and their children and for the vital safety of children.

□ 1015

#### SLOGANS, NOT SOLUTIONS, FROM DEMOCRATS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we are at a financial crossroads. My Republican colleagues and I are committed to fiscal responsibility, while Democrats merely propose slogans and catch phrases to hide behind their tax-and-spend policies.

Over the past 3 years, Democrats have offered amendments totaling tens of billions of dollars of additional spending and \$392 billion in additional taxes. That is more taxes.

A lot of these proposed spending increases were to be financed by raising taxes on small businesses, which means fewer jobs. Earlier this year not a single Democrat House Member supported the lean budget that passed Congress, not one.

Before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our economy was surging, and deficits were shrinking. Fact: The budget deficit shrank last year from \$412 billion to \$319 billion, a decrease of nearly 25 percent. We had 25 straight months of job growth, falling unemployment, and strong growth in the economy.

Madam Speaker, Americans deserve and expect us to work together. I urge my Democrat colleagues to move from slogans to solutions. We would welcome their productive contributions. The American people are waiting.

#### ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WORK TO UNDERMINE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S INVESTIGATION

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, it is clear that high-ranking officials in the Bush White House have not leveled with the American people about their involvement in the leaking of CIA agent Valerie Plame's identity to reporters.

When this investigation first began 2 years ago, Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove told ABC News that he was not involved in any way. After a steady stream of questions, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said he personally went and asked Karl Rove and Scooter Libby if they were involved, and they both assured him that they were not. McClellan told reporters at the White House press briefing on October 7, "They are good individuals.

They're important members of our White House team, and that's why I spoke with them, so I could come back to you and say that they were not involved."

Well, like much of what the White House says today, that is simply not true. Both Rove and Libby were involved in the leaking of a covert agent's identity. That means someone in this administration has a lot of explaining to do.

Madam Speaker, this is not the way the American people want their government to be run. It is time for someone to be held accountable at the White House for this outrageous abuse of power. This administration of necons turns out to be an administration of just plain cons.

#### REPUBLICANS CALL FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita delivered disastrous blows to families and communities in the southern part of our country.

As the Federal Government fulfills its commitment on the gulf coast, Congress must make significant sacrifices in other parts of the Federal budget. House Republicans are proposing several commonsense reforms that will decrease the deficit and the size of the Federal Government.

Instead of considering our positive proposals, House Democrats continue to rely upon their tired tax-and-spend plans that ultimately force future generations to pay higher taxes. They have tried to increase Federal spending by billions of dollars at every stage of the legislative process. Earlier this year not a single Democratic House Member supported the lean budget that passed the Congress.

As our Nation continues to recover from these hurricanes, it is time for Democrats to work with Republicans on fresh reforms that will decrease the Federal deficit, strengthen the Federal Government, and help American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### FIRE ACT GRANTS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, we as a Nation can do much better in protecting the American people with our limited homeland security dollars.

Recently I released a report on the status of the FIRE Act program, the only homeland security program specifically for firefighters, and we know it was the firefighters on 9/11 who were the true heroes and heroines. The statistics in this report, which can be

found on my Web site, would be absolutely laughable if the threats to New York City and other areas in America were not so serious.

In 2004, the FIRE Act program was capped at \$750,000 regardless of threat and size; yet we know that the 9/11 Commission report says that all of our homeland dollars should be targeted specifically and only for high threat and risk. In this report, as the Members can see, Montana gets over \$7.84 per person, while high-threat, number one threat city, New York City gets a mere 12 cents per person.

This is unfair. This is wrong. We can do better.

#### BREAST CANCER

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and as a breast cancer survivor, I am very encouraged by all the research that goes on and continues to find, hopefully, a cure one day.

But I want to encourage everybody to be vigilant because this is a disease that each one of us has to take care of our own bodies to find. I am one of those that was seen by five doctors, and I had three mammograms, and everyone told me I was fine and there was nothing wrong. But I knew something was wrong because I had pain. So I persevered, was able to get an ultrasound, and they found it.

So my message today is preventive medicine is so important, but it is especially important for each one of us as individuals to take care of ourselves. And I encourage everyone during this month, to men and women alike, because men get breast cancer, too, to get mammograms; if they know something is wrong to persevere until they find the answers. And one of these days we will not have to stand here because we will have a cure for this bad disease.

#### CRONYISM IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION: APPOINTMENTS BASED ON CONNECTIONS, NOT CREDENTIALS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, the Bush administration has systematically abused its power by appointing political allies rather than qualified people to positions that have a direct effect on the safety and well-being of the American people.

This dangerous practice became painfully evident in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when the incompetence and inexperience of FEMA Director Michael Brown led to a terribly inadequate response to natural disaster. We now know that President Bush appointed Brown as a favor to a friend, not on his ability to do the job.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated example. A recent Time Magazine inquiry found that in filling positions at vital government agencies, the Bush administration has put connections ahead of credentials. Time notes in a September 25 article that "connections, not qualifications, have helped an unusually high number of Bush appointees land vitally important jobs in the Federal Government."

Madam Speaker, this cronyism must end. Our tax dollars should pay for government that works for everyone, not just the President's friends. The American people deserve better.

#### SECURITY AGENDA

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, while the Democrats are working to develop a message for the upcoming year, Republicans have more than a message. We have an agenda: the security agenda.

We know that Americans have strong views on how this country ought to run, and this Republican majority represents those views. We believe in focusing on four areas: retirement security, homeland security, economic security, and moral security.

We are aggressively fighting terrorism both here at home and abroad to strengthen our national and homeland security. We continue to work to be certain that our seniors are taken care of and provided for in their retirement years. We are working to keep taxes low, regulation light, and shrink the growth of government to be certain that our economic security is not threatened.

Madam Speaker, we want to preserve the right of every American to worship as we choose, defend the sanctity of marriage, and we are fighting to advance the culture of life in order to guard our Nation's moral security.

Madam Speaker, Republicans are focused on these security issues. We know this is an agenda where the American people join us in the actions they would like to see.

#### WHITE HOUSE STONEWALLING OF VALERIE PLAME LEAK INVESTIGATION

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, sadly, 2,000 American troops have now died in Iraq due to a war based on fabrications of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Two years have passed since the Bush White House breached national security by leaking a covert CIA agent's name to reporters to smear a former ambassador who questioned their misleading case for war. Why has President Bush not acted on this reprehensible act?

Anyone who follows the news now knows that the White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove is implicated in leaking Valerie Plame's identity to Time reporter Matthew Cooper. We also know that it was the Vice President's Chief of Staff, Scooter Libby, at the heart of charges leaking Plame's identity to New York Times reporter Judith Miller.

Two years ago the White House press secretary told reporters, "If anyone in this administration was involved in it, they would no longer be in this administration." But that was before it was clear that Karl Rove was indeed involved. President Bush now says staffers will only be fired if they committed a crime.

Talk about lowering the bar. The Bush administration was right at first when it said that anyone involved in this serious breach of our national security would be handed their walking papers.

The stonewalling and the coverup of the White House must finally come to an end. Our country must do better. The world is watching.

#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In West Virginia alone, 270 women will lose their lives to breast cancer in 2005 while an estimated 1,410 new cases will be diagnosed.

The impact of breast cancer goes well beyond the individual to impact her family, her friends, as well as change the path in life the woman is leading.

Regular breast self-examinations, mammograms, and regular visits with a doctor give a woman her greatest chance for overcoming breast cancer.

These reasons are why women, especially women over 50 and women who have a history of breast cancer, should visit their doctor regularly. My husband Charlie lost his mother and his aunt to breast cancer over 30 years ago. Since that time advancements in treatment and educational efforts have increased the 5-year survival rate to 98 percent if the cancer is found and treated before it spreads.

As this Republican-led Congress continues its commitment to fund research efforts, we must also continue efforts to educate women and ensure they have access to proper health care. We owe it to thousands of women, and their families, we have lost to breast cancer. We owe it to ourselves and our daughters for their futures.

#### THE SAD MILESTONE OF 2,000 U.S. TROOPS KILLED IN IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, we mark another sad and tragic milestone in the war in Iraq. Two thousand American soldiers have been killed in the war in Iraq.

We must end this war. How many more of America's finest have to die for this war before we realize that the quagmire in Iraq cannot be solved by military force, and that our occupation is counterproductive?

Iraq has been a colossal failure of American policy. From the beginning this administration has waged a campaign of misinformation and has continued to deliberately mislead the public and this Congress about the realities on the ground. The truth is that Iraq will never be free and the insurgency will not end until we end our occupation and allow the decisions about the future of Iraq to be made in Baghdad, not Washington.

As Americans we lament the loss of every American life and every American injury and every Iraqi civilian casualty. We mourn the first casualties as much as the 2,000th casualty.

Now more than ever, we need to support the troops. Support the troops by bringing them home.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTISM OF KATELIN RICHTER OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 16-year-old Katelin Richter, a student at Watertown-Mayer High School in my hometown.

Katelin recently wrote an essay on the importance and relevance of the Pledge of Allegiance, which was published in a large newspaper in our home State. The theme of Katelin's essay is that the language of the Pledge of Allegiance is the core values held by Americans, that we are one Nation under God, and that it should not be attacked by activist judges.

I think she is right.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the patriotism of Katelin Richter. It is through young voices such as hers that our great Nation will remain strong.

#### CRONYISM IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION: DAVID SAFAVIAN, THE MICHAEL BROWN OF PROCUREMENT

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, together Americans can do better in showing Iraq and the rest of the world how true democracy will not tolerate corruption. We must set better examples than the Bush administration has set.